

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE

5TH DECEMBER 2017

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR: Progress Up date - 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement Recommendations

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee (from hereon Joint Committee) with a progress update on the proposals for improvement made within the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members review the information contained within the report and:

- 2.1 Seek clarity and explanation where there are areas of concern.
- 2.2 Form an opinion on the extent of progress that has been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement reported (**Appendix 1**).

3. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

- 3.1 The Central South Consortium's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) relating to the 2016/17 financial year was reported to and approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on 4th July 2017. The document described the governance arrangements in place, challenged their effectiveness and set out proposals for improvement.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 made seven proposals for improvement and noted that the Consortium's Senior Management Team had accepted these and was committed to their implementation during 2017/18. At this time, the Senior Management Team also confirmed that an update on progress would be reported to the Joint Committee during the year to enable elected Members to review and scrutinise the extent of progress being made.

- 3.3 In line with the above, the Joint Committee is requested to review the progress up date set out at Appendix 1 and form a view on the extent of progress that has been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement reported

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A progress up date on the seven proposals for improvement made within the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement is set out at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The provision of this information will assist the Joint Committee is assessing the adequacy of the governance arrangements in place for the Central South Consortium.

APPENDIX 1**PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT – Progress Up Date (5th December 2017)**

Core Principle	Para. No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer	Progress
Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.	5.2.5	The 'Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and Procedure' was last up dated in 2013.	The host authority has identified that the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and Procedure should be reviewed and up dated, where relevant, and reported to the appropriate Committee for scrutiny and sign-off. This update should then be used to inform a refreshed programme of awareness raising across the Council and will include officers at the Consortium.	January 2018	Managing Director	Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has up dated its 'Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and Procedure' and this is scheduled to be reported to its Audit Committee on 27 th November 2017 for consideration, and if deemed appropriate, approval. Following the outcome of Audit Committee's consideration, the Central South Consortium will request an up dated version of the document and brief Consortium staff.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT – Progress Report December 2017

Core Principle	Para. No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer	Progress
	5.2.6	There is a need for a systematic process for the adoption of host authority policies.	Develop a systematic process whereby updates to policies provided by the host authority are discussed at the operational senior leadership team meeting for approval and shared with staff on Cronfa.	September 2017	Senior Lead –Business & Operations	Managers attend briefings organised by RCT where updates to policy are presented. Where appropriate, policies are then reviewed by SMT and presented to SLT for discussion / comment. Once agreed, they will be uploaded to the staff area on Cronfa.
Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.	5.3.11	There is a need to increase the level of headteacher engagement in the governance of the organisation.	Review the overall governance structure for the Consortium to ensure increased engagement in the decision making process from headteachers across the region as part of a continued drive to a school led self improving system.	September 2017	Managing Director	Meetings have taken place with Directors regarding the future role of Headteachers regarding governance of CSC. CSC is awaiting the outcomes of a review of the National Model.

Core Principle	Para. No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer	Progress
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.	5.4.6	The need to develop a medium term financial plan.	Develop a MTFP in 2017/18, ensuring resources be allocated / categorised over Business Plan priorities to demonstrate or otherwise the prioritisation of resources.	December 2017	Senior Lead –Business & Operations	Medium Term Financial Plan regarding the core budget will be presented to Joint Committee in March 2018. Due to the uncertainty of Welsh Govt grant funding, it has not currently been possible to profile grant funding over the medium term. Further meetings with Welsh Govt and Managing Directors are taking place.
Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals.	5.7.4	Councillor / employee development / training – where operational training is delivered, its impact is not always captured.	Where Councillor and employee development / training activity takes place, information should be collected on an on-going basis to help inform future activity and assess the impact on attendees.	September 2017	Senior Lead –Standards & Improvement Planning	Training programme agreed with WLGA for Spring 2018. Evaluations will be built into the programme of training. In house training for staff is evaluated although not systematically. Further work is needed in this area.

Core Principle	Para. No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer	Progress
	5.7.5	Newly Elected members may require further training on the work of the Consortium.	Design and contribute to a national training programme for newly elected members.	September 2017	Senior Lead –Strategy, Leadership & Workforce Reform	Training programme agreed with WLGA for Spring 2018.
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.	5.8.10	Information Management – no update is reported setting out the Consortium's work and performance in this area.	The Consortium should report on a periodic basis, for example annually, its work and performance around Information Management and provide opportunity for review and scrutiny by the Joint Education Committee.	June 2018	Head of Data, Quality & Intelligence Unit	CSC will report to Joint Committee in March 2018 in respect of the Information Management Policy.
